

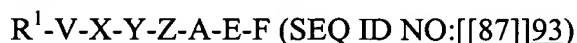
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) A compound capable of inhibiting β -secretase wherein the compound is of formula I:



(I)

or a variant thereof in which any of V, A, E and F is/are replaced by a conservative substitution,

wherein V, A, E and F are valine, alanine, glutamine and phenylalanine, respectively;

R^1 is chosen from hydrogen, acetyl, t-butoxycarbonyl and carbobenzoyl;

X is chosen from methionine, phenylglycine, n-leucine (n-Leu), asparagine, phenylalanine, glycine and valine;

Z is chosen from valine, α -aminobutyric acid (Abu), phenylglycine (Phg) and alanine; and

Y is statine, aha (cyclohexylmethyistatine) or phenylstatine (Phe-sta) wherein the phenyl group may optionally have mono or di-substitution chosen from the group consisting of Cl, F, Br, methyl and methoxy.

7. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 6, wherein said β -secretase inhibitor is chosen from the group consisting of R^1 -VMStaVAEF (SEQ ID NO: [[88]]94); Ac-VPhgStaVAEF (SEQ ID NO: [[89]]95); R^1 -V n-Leu-Sta-VAEF (SEQ ID NO: [[90]]96); R^1 -VNStaVAEF (SEQ ID NO: [[91]]97); R^1 -VFStaVAEF (SEQ ID NO: [[92]]98); and R^1 -V MPhe-staVAEF (SEQ ID NO: [[93]]99).

8. (Original) The compound of claim 7, wherein in said β -secretase inhibitor R^1 is H or acetyl.

9. (Original) The compound of claim 8, wherein in said β -secretase inhibitor R^1 is acetyl.

10. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 9, wherein said β -secretase inhibitor is Ac-VMStaVAEF (SEQ ID NO:94).

11-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 6, wherein the phenyl group of phenylstatine has mono or di-substitution chosen from the group consisting of Cl, F, Br, methyl and methoxy.